



AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

A Must for Visitors & Relied On By Locals for 23 Years

August 2012

ANNUAL THINGS TO SEE AND DO ISSUE



Bird-in-Hand
Family Inn,
Restaurant
& STAGE

Thru
Nov. 30

Beverly Lewis'
The Confession
Musical



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See and Do in
Dutch Country

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DUTCH HAVEN LANCASTER COUNTY LANDMARK

While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 50 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

Come Taste
America's Best
Shoo Fly Pie
FREE!

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just

part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to collectibles, T-shirts, small wood crafts, local jams, jellies, and honey, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week 9am-9pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable.

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Jakey's Amish Barbeque

Beverly Lewis Hit Musical is Back on Bird-in-Hand Stage

**Special to
Amish Country News**



Beverly Lewis' inspiring Amish love story, *The Confession*, has returned to the Bird-in-Hand Stage on the lower level of the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord. Premiered last fall to

many sellout crowds, the entertaining hit has already sold more than 19,000 tickets this season. *The Confession* will be closing its 2012 season November 30.

"We're excited to bring this wonderful story again to our Bird-in-Hand Stage," said Bird-in-Hand Corporation's co-owner John

Smucker. "Our family was honored to host more than 10,000 people at last year's opening season. *The Confession* gives us one more way to show hospitality to our guests."

A captivating story of a young Amish woman caught in the middle of secrets and scandal, *The Confession* shares a tale of love lost and found and personal heartache and healing. Pulling its story line from three books written by *New York Times* bestselling author Beverly Lewis, *The Confession* musical weaves the lives of characters she first introduced in *The Shunning*, *The Confession* and *The Reckoning*. It's clear why the Lancaster County native has been proclaimed "the queen of [Amish fiction]" by *USA Today*.

The Confession is a touching Amish love story and a keep-you-on-the-edge-of-your-seat mystery, all wrapped up in one," explains the musical's director Wally Nason. "Men and women alike are eager to find out what happens." As one 2011 theatergoer said, "It's the right touch of humor with a message." *Lancaster Sunday News* agreed that its "ready-for-prime-time voices...promises a happy ending and delivers."

With the laughter that ensues when a New York actress tries to play a "Plain" woman and the emotions experienced when lies are uncovered and truth revealed, *The Confession* takes its audiences on a roller coaster of highs and lows as the Plain, the not-so-plain and the outright extravagant all meet.

Beverly Lewis' book was adapted for stage by veteran writer Martha Bolton, who is best known for her work as a speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan and with Bob Hope and Christian comedians Mark Lowry and Chonda Pierce. Nashville musician Wally Nason wrote the show's soaring melodies, inspiring lyrics and directs the performance. Nashville-based Dan Posthuma produced the show.

The Confession musical first opened at the Blue Gate Theater in Shipshewana, Indiana. It soon moved to Bird-in-Hand, and has since opened at a third venue, the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio.

Tickets to *The Confession* are \$32 weekdays and \$34 Friday and Saturday. Pre- and post-performance meal packages are \$44 to \$52. Tickets and meal packages may be purchased online at www.Bird-in-Hand.com or by phone at (800) 790-4069. Lodging packages are also available. For group reservations of 25 or more, call (800) 555-2303 Ext. 221 or 218. 



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Beverly Lewis' The Confession Musical

Now - Nov. 30, 2012

Don't miss the hit musical adaptation of *New York Times* bestselling author Beverly Lewis' Amish trilogy. Blending foot-stomping music with heartfelt ballads, it pulls its uplifting story line, soaring melodies and inspiring lyrics from characters she introduced in *The Shunning*, *The Confession* and *The Reckoning*.

Tickets \$32 - \$34

Lunch and dinner packages available



(800) 790-4069 • www.Bird-in-Hand.com

Banquets in a Cornfield, Too!

John and Jim Smucker have built Bird-in-Hand Corporation's fine reputation by steeping its inns, motels, restaurant and bakery in authentic Amish and Mennonite recipes and traditions handed down for generations. Recently they introduced a new, unforgettable experience: Banquets in a Cornfield on John and Myrna Smucker's farm.

Seats are still available for Banquets August 16 and 23—but you need to act fast. Each evening begins with a hayride to their farm where they'll treat you to barbecue chicken, freshly picked corn on the cob, shortcake with fresh berries, whoopie pies and more. The nights will close with an opportunity for you and your family to gather informally on hay bales around the Smucker's fire pit.

Lock in your reservations by contacting Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord at 717-768-1500. Tickets, including tax and gratuity, are \$39.95 per person for adults, \$24.95 for children 4-12. Children 3 and under are free.



Catch the Spirit...Ghost Tours of Lancaster

by Clinton Martin

Mind the flickering candle in your lantern as your "high-spirited" guide for the evening tells tales of those long-lost, but not-so-distant souls of Amish Country's dark past.

You'll forget that you're in the midst of the largest Amish settlement in America as stories of haunted mansions, otherworldly vigils, fatal curses and star-crossed lovers are spun in the eerily darkened streets near quietly decaying graveyards. It's an experience of a different sort

as Ghost Tours of Lancaster materialize at two locations nightly, in the venerated village of Strasburg, and the debonair downtown of Lancaster City.



On Saturday evenings in Strasburg, a bona fide ghost hunt is offered, employing methods seen on popular Cable TV shows as brave visitors discover long-departed spirits on the historic streets and in the cemetery of Strasburg.

Reservations are required, and can be made online at www.ghosttour.com or by phone at 717-687-6687.

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Benefits Hospice of Lancaster County



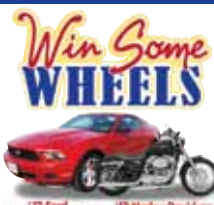
Saturday, September 1
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, September 3
8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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Harley Tickets: \$5 each
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Amish Country News August Events



August is a great month for Benefit Auctions in Amish Country

The Confession: A Beverly Lewis Musical
Bird-in-Hand Restaurant & Stage **Now through Nov**

Fiddler on the Roof

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre **Aug 9 – Sept 22**

Banquet in a Cornfield

Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord
Aug 9, 16, and 23

Dine with the Amish

Strasburg Railroad **Aug 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24**

Intercourse Fire Company Benefit Auction

Intercourse Fire Company Hall **Aug 18**

Calling all Kids Cooking Class

The Good Cooking Store **Aug 21**

Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

Mount Hope Estate & Winery **Sat & Sun Aug-Oct**

Summerfest BBQ Cookoff

New Holland Community Park **Aug 24 & 25**

Kinzers Fire Company Benefit Sale

Kinzer's Fire Company Hall **Aug 25**

Hospice of Lanc. County Benefit Auction

Lampeter Fairgrounds, Route 741 **Sept 1 and 3**

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The Joy of Toy Trains at the National Toy Train Museum

by Clinton Martin

Some toy trains are mass-produced, widely available on store shelves, and are priced as fun yet inexpensive playthings. Other toy trains aren't designed to run the rails in the hands of a rambunctious child, but are instead things of beauty, meant to be collected and operated by the careful hands of a doting owner. Both have their purpose.

The National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg is an impressive collection of both, showing every little boy's 1930s dream toy from famous makers like Lionel beside the true collector's gem like the Voltamp 2100 Baltimore & Ohio Steam

Locomotive from 1908-1910. Visitors young and old alike will have fun viewing both, but for those who would rather see some rail-bending in action, the museum wisely provides many interactive layouts activated by the touch of a button.

Between viewing the zip of the tiny train cars, visitors can stroll into the National Toy Train Museum's theater, featuring a constant loop of train videos that bring the chugging power of steam and diesel to life on the big screen.

The National Toy Train Museum is open seven days a week, 10:00am to 5:00pm, although last admittance is at 4:30pm. For GPS or other mapping services use 300 Paradise Lane, Ronks PA,



17572. Finding the museum without a gadget is easy, however. Turn left off of Route 741 east of Strasburg onto Paradise Lane. The museum is a quarter mile ahead on the right. Call 717-687-8976 for more details. 

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August 9 - September 22

Fiddler on the Roof

Starring Jimmy Ferraro as Tevye



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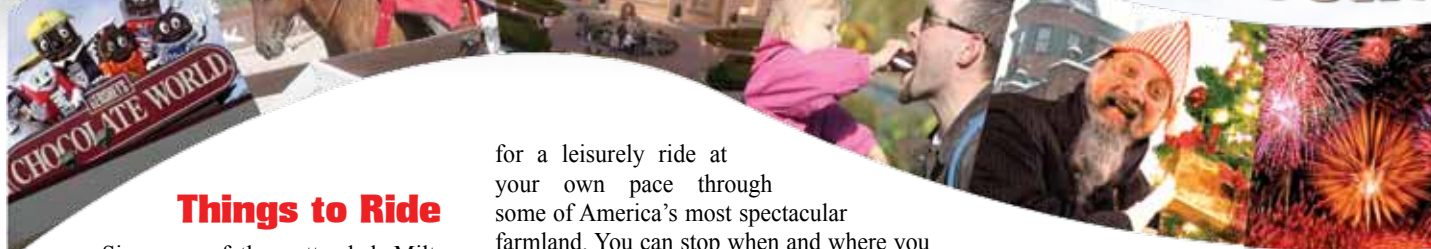
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Things to Ride

Since my father attended Milton Hershey School (and was actually handed his diploma from the man himself), Hershey was practically a second home for me growing up. I always enjoyed Hershey Park, seeing the shows and riding the Comet, although now there are so many awesome roller coasters that I have lost count.

I vaguely remember a tour of the actual chocolate factory, but that's no longer possible. So Hershey's Chocolate World is the place for a ride through the simulated factory. I never tire of this experience... or the free chocolate sample at the end.

Closer to home, Dutch Wonderland was the place to go when I couldn't meet the height requirements for those grown-up rides. It's still the place many kids experience their "firsts," be it roller coaster ride or water park.

In Amish Country there are two other "rides" no one should miss. The Strasburg Rail Road is the real deal, with giant steam locomotives chugging along through beautiful countryside.

After you get over that initial excitement of seeing your first horse and buggy, you'll probably want to ride one. Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides puts the horse before the cart and takes you down scenic country roads. Many of the drivers are from local Plain sects, so you may also get to talk to them informally about their way of life.

For the more adventurous, you might take control of the ride experience itself, from Segway tours to Zip lines. Also, a reader just sent me an e-mail claiming Amish Country is one of the best places in the United States to go cycling.

But to get around the area a bit faster, I'd recommend going to Country Road Cycles in Bird-in-Hand to rent a motorcycle or scooter

for a leisurely ride at your own pace through some of America's most spectacular farmland. You can stop when and where you want, and snack at roadside stands along the way. That ice cold homemade root beer and a whoopie pie taste great on a summer day!

Things to Do Outside

Of course, you'll want to plan some activities outdoors, and there are plenty to choose from.

The most famous is clearly the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. For over 30 years, visitors have come from all over to step back in time to enjoy food, beverage, song, dance, crafts, jousts, and over 90 shows at the 12 stages spaced about this 30 acre village of yore. Rare it is to walk the grounds and not become engaged with a performer. You might even end up on stage... I have, several times. For me, it's difficult to believe this all started many years ago as just one of many weekend events on the formal Victorian gardens of Mount Hope Estate and Winery. It's been thrilling for me to see this early vision of the very creative founder (and good friend) evolve into One of The Top Ten Events in PA, so designated by the State's Department of Commerce.

You should also check out one of the popular fire hall auctions. It's a great way to mingle with the Plain folk, snack on a funnel cake or pulled pork sandwich, and maybe even buy a quilt. The Intercourse auction and sale is August 18th and Kinzers is the 25th.

I also should mention a great Sunday activity. Take the short drive north to Adamstown to discover an antique shopper's paradise anchored by the venerable Renninger's Market. I especially enjoy the experience of looking for that special find strolling through the trees at the nearby Shupp's Grove.

Top off your Sunday back in Lancaster at Long's Park at a free outdoor concert. No charge, just bring a blanket or lawn chair. The

artists are nationally known, and it's all paid for from donations and profits from the Long's Park Art & Craft Festival, one of the nation's finest, held this year August 31st to September 3rd.

Another free outing is hiking. We're really under-rated as a hiking spot and, because I used to catch crayfish as a little boy, my favorite is probably Chickies Rock, a name derived from the American Indian word "Chiquesalunga," meaning "place of the crayfish." Most easily accessed from Columbia, the trail takes you to a massive outcropping of quartzite rock towering 200 feet above the Susquehanna River and a vista offering memorable views.

Things to Entertain

For me, there has always been a "time" for theater, from my first grade school play through all those high school musicals. Nowadays, I reside in the audience, grateful that we are home to nationally acclaimed theater productions.

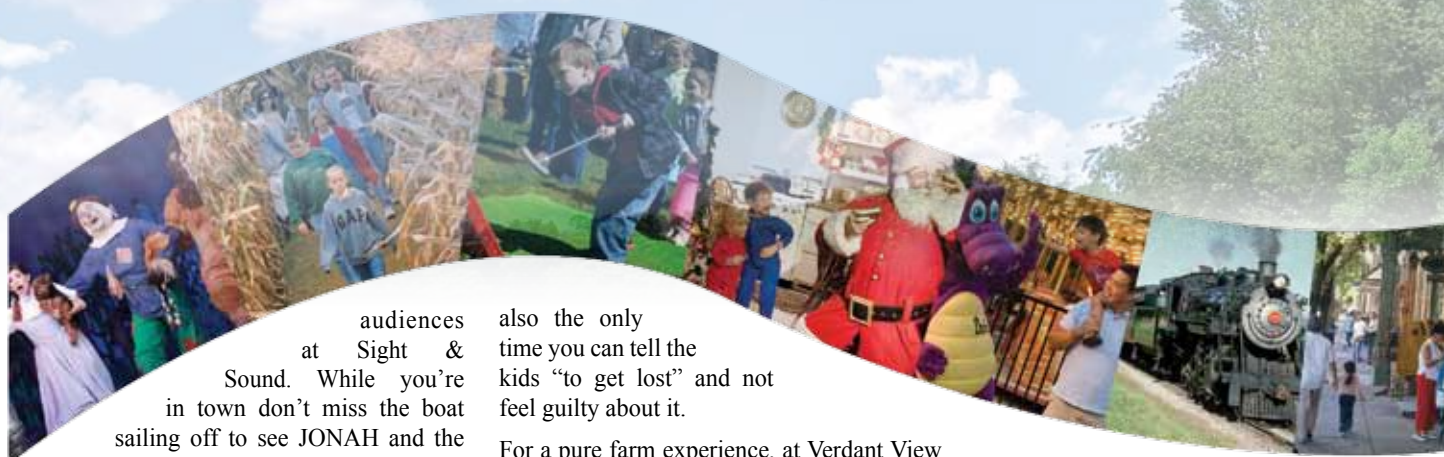
The historic Fulton Theater is in downtown Lancaster and you should always find out what's playing and if you can get tickets. Never far away, various universities and theater companies provide an eclectic array of dramatic performances, including the playhouse in the park in Ephrata where my parents often took me when I was growing up.

To the west of the city of Lancaster is Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, with the national tour of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF playing in August right after LEGALLY BLONDE. I've enjoyed many a show there over the years. Once I even managed to pull myself away from the dessert buffet.

On the east side of town you'll find several theaters, including the jaw-dropping "Bible-on-stage" shows that never cease to amaze and inspire

I am writing this article coming off of a series of record-breaking hot July days throughout most of the United States. We had our own all-time high of 101 degrees. If there is "a time to be hot," I hope we are finished with it and that August will be more pleasant for visitors and locals alike. With that in mind, I found that there were many ways to approach our August theme issue "Things to See and Do". I decided on the literal, and without further ado, here are some of my favorite summer "things".

by Brad Igou



audiences
at Sight &
Sound. While you're
in town don't miss the boat
sailing off to see JONAH and the
whale.

Not far away are the Rainbow Dinner Theatre, which specializes in zany comedies, and the American Music Theatre, famous for big-name artists and lively musical reviews.

For fans of the Amish novels of Beverly Lewis, you'll not want to miss THE CONFESSION musical playing at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant & Stage. This production was brought back for an extended run following the overwhelming audience response last year.

Finally, I must say I love going to the movies, and I am thrilled we finally have our very own IMAX at the Penn Cinema. I'll long remember seeing the last HARRY POTTER film without having to drive an hour or more!

Movie buffs will surely want to take the WITNESS Movie Tour offered by the Amish Experience. It's the only way to visit the farm where the 1985 Harrison Ford mystery-romance was filmed.

You'll also enjoy the special effects production of JACOB'S CHOICE at the Amish Experience Theatre at Plain & Fancy Farm for an emotional and unique story about what it means to be Amish, with shows daily on the hour.

Things for Kids

Summer vacation season is still in full swing, and you'll want to do some fun things with the family. Many of the above activities are super for the kids, but here are a few more, starting with two in Strasburg...

Cherry Crest Adventure Farm cultivates one of the best corn mazes in the land, along with 50 other fun farm-related activities. If you wanted to marry the fun of an amusement park with farming, this is what you'd end up with. It's

also the only time you can tell the kids "to get lost" and not feel guilty about it.

For a pure farm experience, at Verdant View Farm you can milk a cow, feed a calf, collect some eggs, make cheese, or take a wagon ride around this operating farm with one of the owners ready to answer all of your questions.

An exciting new attraction to be added to your must-do list is the Turkey Hill Experience in Columbia. You probably know Turkey Hill for the ice cream, milk, and iced teas. Here you learn the Turkey Hill story through interactive stops along your journey. The highlight surely is making your own virtual ice cream flavor, designing the packaging, and then making your own TV commercial. Oh, let's not forget eating some ice cream, too!

Returning to Strasburg, I've got to point you to two wonderful places - the National Toy Train Museum with its many layouts and spectacular model train collection, and the Choo Choo Barn where you'll find Amish Country spread out before your eyes, with local landmarks in miniature as day turns to night. If your children aren't yet interested in model railroading, they will be after visits to these two world-class attractions!

To conclude our time in Strasburg, head on over to the Village Greens miniature golf courses. The entire family will enjoy either one of these two beautifully landscaped courses, a local Readers' Choice Award winner.

Things to Learn

Amish Country is rich in history and diverse cultural traditions. You can discover the world of the Plain people at both the Amish Experience on RT. 340 and the Amish Village on RT. 896 in Strasburg. You'll be entertained while you learn about our Amish neighbors on the various tours offered. It might even give the kids a little to think about as they

ponder life without electricity, cars, TV and computers.

One of my favorite state museums is the Ephrata Cloister, preserving the buildings, culture, art, and music of an unusual and unique monastic community that made Lancaster its home in the 1700's.

For one of those one-of-a-kind museums you won't find anywhere else, stop at the American Military Edged Weaponry Museum in Intercourse where you'll discover a collection you probably wouldn't expect to find in Amish Country.

No need to tell the kids they're learning when you take them to Lititz's Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery, America's oldest, founded in 1861. They'll get a hands-on lesson in pretzel twisting and enjoy seeing the old bake ovens. You can also see pretzels being made and learn how to do the twist at the Intercourse Pretzel Factory should the drive up RT. 501 to Lititz not fit into your plans.

Finally, there is nothing like weaving a little history and a few scares together. You'll get both with an evening Ghosts of Lancaster County tour. Whether it's the Lancaster City or the Strasburg walking tour, count on a frightfully entertaining evening.

There are so many more things to see and do, places to eat and shop, and people to meet. Page through this issue for an expansive selection. If you've had an especially memorable experience at any of the places I've mentioned, please e-mail me at editor@amishnews.com and we may just use your comments in a future issue. We'll definitely share your remarks with the people who provided you with the memories that prompted you to write me! 

Get the Point at the Edged Weaponry Museum

by Clinton Martin

Staring down the point of an American military knife is a fearsome proposition, but thankfully the knives at the American Military Edged Weaponry Museum are displayed not in the hands of an enemy soldier, but in an artistically appealing array portraying the historical might of the American fighting forces.

The collection depicts many decades of military edged weaponry, which means knives are just the beginning. Also included are pikes, swords, sabers, fencing bayonets, and bowie, knuckle and trench knives. Some are elegant

and decorative, while others are flat out destructive and chilling.

The more unusual pieces include an extremely rare parachute knife used as a line-cutter in emergencies, and the little-known bayonet produced by Savage Arms Co. to fit their famous rifles.

This fascinating museum is open Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm, closed Sundays. Admission is \$3 for adults, and \$1.50 for children under twelve. Look for the red-brick former bank building with the cannons out front in Intercourse at the intersection of Routes 340 and 772. 



See knives from the French & Indian War through the 1991 Desert Storm Conflict.

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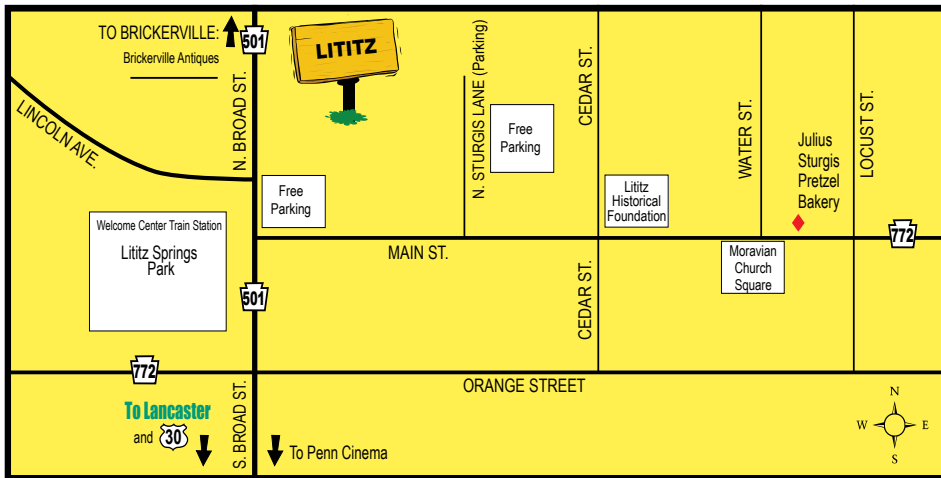
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Historic Lititz • A Hometown Treasure



There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse

erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz --- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery

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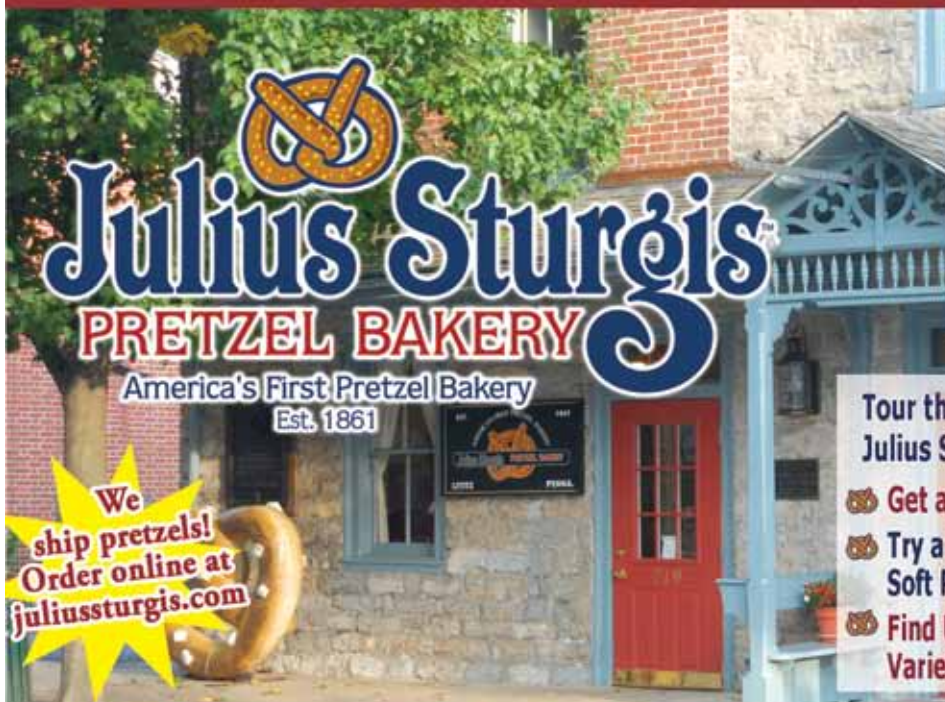
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in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

The more you explore Lititz, the more you'll agree it is one of Amish Country's best kept secrets! ~~and~~

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Certified Amish Country Tour Guide Celebrates 15 Years of Meeting, Greeting, and Guiding Visitors

by Clinton Martin

Paul Metzler started as a tour guide for the Amish Experience shortly after the Amish Experience Theatre debuted the critically acclaimed production of “Jacob’s Choice.” That was 1997, also the year when Paul finished his multi-decade career at a large Pennsylvania Dutch food manufacturer in Lancaster County. Having spent years nurturing the company’s farm market supply chain, Paul had come into contact with many Amish stand-holders. He even came to know some as good friends, though it wasn’t solely these experiences that led him to become a tour guide.

Instead, it was a combination of his upbringing in the Anabaptist tradition, an avid interest in the history and heritage of the area, and the simple fact that he enjoyed being around people and sharing his knowledge of the countryside and our Amish community. He actually had decided to become a tour guide well before he knew the Amish Experience existed.

His interest in history and Anabaptist heritage led him on an in-depth tour of the pivotal sites in Europe’s Anabaptist movement, including a three-week trek, spanning Holland, Germany, and Switzerland. The first and last week were spent bicycling the undulating hills and valleys where so many of the historic confessions of faith, baptisms, and new teachings took place. The second week was slightly less strenuous, utilizing trains, boats, and buses. Three weeks on the Anabaptist trail of history was all it took to seal his interest in the Amish.

Not long after his return to the States, Paul realized he would be retiring from his career, and decided that being a tour guide would be a good way to stay active. Paul spent a number of weeks exploring the various guided-tour venues, and settled on the Amish Experience. He had met some of the guide force, and found them to be knowledgeable and professional, and was especially drawn to the variety of activities that the interpretative center offered. After all he reasoned, it would be far more enjoyable giving a dozen different tours, rather than just rambling on from a script of “the tour” every hour, every day. He applied, and happily, was hired.

Having provided tours to tens of thousands of visitors over the years, he can honestly say he’s taken visitors from all 50 states on an Amish tour, not to mention dozens of countries the world over. Some groups do stand out as especially fun and interesting. There was the six-hour guided tour for a group of Mormon missionaries, the youth orchestra of the Peabody Institute to whom he gave his “Amish 101,” and the annual visit of the Hayato Japanese high school group.

Like all of the professional guides at the Amish Experience, Paul is constantly adding to his knowledge, or perhaps more accurately, constantly updating his knowledge. Paul reminds us that the Amish community is a living, breathing, and consequently, continuously changing community. While it may sometimes appear that the Amish live exactly the way their forefathers did 50 or even 100 years ago, Paul likes to point out on his tours that really isn’t the case.



Paul enjoys opportunities to rub elbows with local Amish folk, learning simply by sharing experiences with his Amish neighbors. These opportunities usually take the form of benefit auctions, hymn sings, or even circular publications like Mennonite World Review. Paul notes that two of his favorite, can’t-miss events are the annual PA Haiti Benefit Auction held near the villages of Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse every year, and also the nearby Clinic For Special Children auction. He readily admits that he hasn’t bid on an item in years, as he really doesn’t have space for another quilt, toolbox, etc. Instead, he simply peruses the customary food stands always found at such events, supporting the cause with his appetite.

The first fifteen years of guiding under his belt, Paul looks forward to many more seasons with a microphone in his hand, and this is certainly good news for the thousands more fortunate enough to be led on their Amish touring adventure by Paul.

The Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm is located half-way between the villages of Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse along Route 340 and is open seven days a week. Tours include the introductory farmlands tour as well as specialty tours including the often sold-out Witness Movie Tour, new Amish Adventure Tour, and the exclusive Visit-In-Person tour which features three personal stops at Amish workshops, farms and even a sit-down visit in an Amish home. All tours are in air-conditioned 14-passenger shuttles. Call 717.768.8400, ext. 210 for details. 



4,894

Number of Facebook "Likes" for Lancaster Brewing Company at press time.

THE AMISH IN THE MEDIA - Second Edition

We have thus far looked at the Amish on Broadway, in film serious and comedic, and numerous TV shows. Readers brought to my attention two animated series that included Amish. As a fan of animation and with the help of iTunes, I was able to view a couple of episodes I had not seen. And so...



The FAMILY GUY clan checks into the Amish hotel after their car breaks down.



Ezekiel tells Meg and his son, Eli, that they may no longer see each other.



The FAMILY GUY decides to try introducing rock n' roll music to the Amish.



The children break up the fight between FAMILY GUY and the Amish.

Back to an Amish Future

Let's start with some time travel into the future with the popular series FUTURAMA by Matt Groening, who also brings us THE SIMPSONS. THE GHOST IN THE MACHINES comes from Season 8 and steals ideas from various ghost stories.

It will take far too long to explain the plot leading up to the brief Amish segment, but basically a robot named Bender commits suicide because his human friend, Fry, chose to save the life of another human rather than a robot. Bender is now in limbo between Robot Hell and Earth.

Robot Devil strikes a deal with him, and we know that deals with the devil never turn out well. Bender can only escape his limbo by literally scaring Fry to death. Since Bender can be neither seen nor heard, the only thing his ghost can do is enter machines and turn them against Fry. Soon all of Fry's household devices and computers are out of control and he is diagnosed with "Machine Phobia." The cure? Send him to the "Amish Home World," where no machines are allowed.

The Amish spaceship is, of course, made of wood and is powered by two oxen on a treadmill connected to a system that turns two large propellers. Before departure, an announcement is made that "passengers are limited to two carry-on butter churns."

The "Amish Home World" looks much like our present-day Amish Country. Upon landing, Fry is handed some Amish clothes and a beard. Bender, realizing Fry actually did love him, has followed Fry to the Amish Home World, but so has Robot Devil, dressed in a blue Amish dress and bonnet.

The spaceship is stored by camouflaging it in a red geodesic wooden barn. Robot Devil sends the barn rolling towards Fry. Bender "inhabits" the Robot Devil and saves Fry's life. Bender ascends to Robot Heaven because of his good deed where his wish to return to his earthly friends is fulfilled.

The Amish have little to do with the plot beyond imagining "what a sect already a couple centuries behind the times might be like a thousand years from now."

FAMILY GUY Battles the Amish

The Amish and a clash of lifestyles and values is the entire plot of the Season 10 FAMILY GUY episode titled AMISH GUY. This popular animated series created by Seth MacFarlane features a dysfunctional family with an astute talking dog.

On a return from a disastrous family vacation, the family's car overheats, stranding them on a remote country road. The dog comments a mechanic will be hard to find, pointing to a sign "Welcome to Amish Country."

At the Amish inn, daughter Meg is distraught because there is no electricity or telephone. Eli, son of innkeeper Ezekiel, explains Amish life really isn't so horrible and shows her around in his horse and buggy.

When Meg asks Eli, "What do you do for fun around here?" he quietly replies, "We do chores and we watch other people do chores."

Meg takes pity on him, giving him her iPhone. The two are attracted to each other and about to kiss when Eli's father stops them. Back in the hotel room, Meg

asks Dad to intervene and tell Ezekiel she is not trying to corrupt his son.

The next scene takes us to a barn raising, where Ezekiel offers a prayer...

Dear Amish Lord,

Thou lookest sternly down upon us thine flock, even though we did not do anything wrong and have been doing chores like crazy. Please make us humble and deliver us more hardships that we may get thick, calloused hands much larger than other people's... We solemnly believe that although humans have been around for a million years, you feel strongly that they had just the right amount of technology between 1835 and 1850, not too little, not too much... Protect us from those who laugh at our buggies or our hats and deliver us from moustaches.

Dad manages to reason with Ezekiel, but makes the mistake of trying to introduce rock music, leading to the banishment of the entire family. The Amish arrive with horses to tow the car and family away. Meg is in tears until she discovers that Eli has stowed away in order to be with her.

(Continued on Page 26)



The oxen powered wooden spaceship lands in the "Amish Home World" in FUTURAMA.



The ghost of robot Bender and the Robot Devil in Amish disguise in FUTURAMA.

Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball

The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

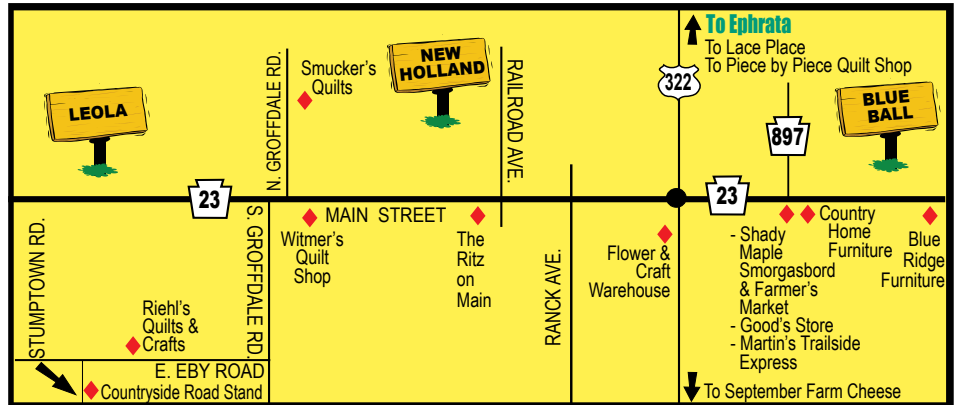
This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than \$.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.





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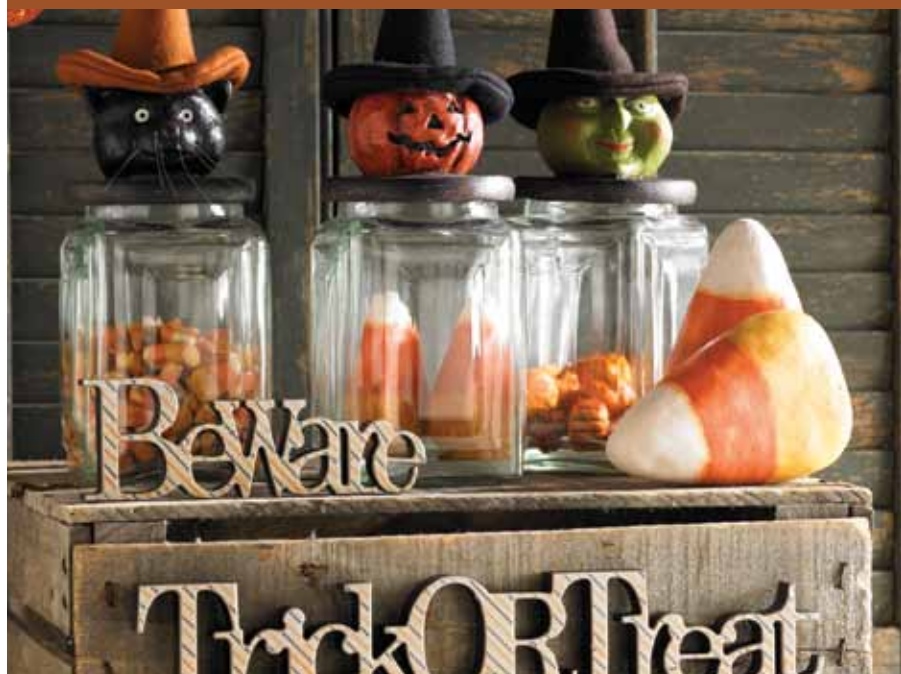
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Shady Maple Complex Shines Ever-Bright!

by Clinton Martin

There's always been something special about Shady Maple. Although it's big to be sure, there's nothing "complex" about this Complex. I wanted to highlight a couple of my favorite Shady Maple haunts. It wasn't easy choosing just three, but here goes...

Good's Store

While this store may define dictionary definitions for the word "good," such as bountiful, agreeable, attractive and considerable, it's called "Good's" simply because that's the founder's last name. And after 50 years, locals and visitors alike know the name does indeed describe the shopping experience.

The family has even grown the business to include three other locations in Quarryville, Schaefferstown, and Ephrata, in addition to the flagship Shady Maple store.

Good's Store carries a full line of merchandise including clothing, shoes, fabrics, stationery, domestics, housewares, giftware, hardware, toys, and sporting goods. Not surprisingly, it's been frequented by many Amish, Mennonite, and other Plain folks for generations for its friendly service, vast selection and competitive prices.

Along with the regular name brands are old-fashioned items, like toys that don't take batteries, clothing that you can work hard in, and hard-to-find household items you thought weren't available anymore. One might say that this store really has "the goods."

Martin's Trailside Express

While Martin's Trailside Express has been open to the public since 1998, the story of this convenient quick stop for food, fuel, and a shine goes back a number of years. The company's patriarch, Earl Martin, had originally allowed a few close neighbors to come and purchase gasoline from his trucking company at a lower bulk rate. New regulations for underground tanks gave him the

incentive to expand his location and open a retail gas station type facility.

Today, it's much more than just a place to top off the tank. Martin's has all the necessary accouterments to refresh your automobile, from a wash to those little niggling "wish-I-hads" like oil, blinker bulbs, or windshield washer fluid.

And if you need a personal fuel up, Martin's stocks a coffee island of Baronet brand coffees, plus sweet sides like coffee cakes and the locally beloved TastyKake brand. Better still, when the friendly staff at Martin's tie on an apron and fire up the grill to make you a to-order delicious burger, fry up some kickin' chicken, or flip a couple of flapjacks, you know you'll soon be primed to hit the road again in style.

Yes, Martin's Trailside Express is a gas station, but trust me, you'll find the experience goes far beyond simply moving the needle from E to F!

Shady Maple Smorgasbord

Shady Maple Smorgasbord is arguably the most famous of the all-you-care-to-eat restaurants in Amish Country. Interestingly enough however, the namesake of the property near Blue Ball was not the seed that grew to be the mighty complex it is today.

That honor belongs to the Shady Maple Farm Market, a simple roadside stand at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Z. Martin, parents of current owners, Miriam and Marvin Weaver. The Martin's called their produce stand "Shady Maple," as it was situated directly underneath the towering tree of the same name.

But they soon outgrew their roadside surroundings. With every addition to the market, more locals and visitors were finding their way and filling their baskets. Today it's the largest grocery market in Lancaster County, in both size and selection. You probably don't often visit grocery outlets when on vacation, but you owe it to yourself to set foot in Shady Maple's foyer and have your idea of the super market become forever altered.

Of course, the restaurant was a natural evolution of operating a market that specialized in fresh country meats, just-off-the-boat seafood selections, and a produce department seemingly as big as the farms supplying it. And, Amish Country's must-try gastronomic "event" is today the Shady Maple Smorgasbord where unending delicious selections are displayed in steaming trays arrayed along "bars" for you to peruse at your leisure.

The sense of being in Amish Country is very real, as the food options reflect the surrounding countryside, from a dozen ways to prepare corn to a hot batch of chipped beef gravy to pour over oven-fresh buttermilk biscuits. Suffice it to say there is an amazing variety along the 200-plus feet of buffets. And each night at the Smorgasbord sports an additional theme with the chefs' take on seafood, steaks, chops, and ribs. Hungry yet?

Believe me, whether Amish Country is your destination, or you're just passing through, Shady Maple is a great way to spend a few hours, whatever the season, whatever the reason! 





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Victorian Era Back in Style at Crystal Cave

by Clinton Martin



Crystal Cave in nearby Berks County was first discovered by European settlers in the Victorian era. It is fitting then that to celebrate the anniversary of the cave's awakening to modern-day visitors, Crystal Cave has announced guided tours steeped in the look and feel of the refined and genteel Victorian era.

Every Saturday and Sunday in August at 7:30pm the modern lighting showcasing the cave will be shut off, throwing the cave into a deep darkness. Only the flickering beams of light emitted by old-fashioned lanterns will bring the rocky formations to life on this tour-to-remember. Dressed

Continued on Page 43

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12 Years Strong!

Visitors to Lancaster County love to experience the serenity of days gone by.

Part of this experience includes the delicious foods of the area and the handcrafted products of furniture artisans, including the still very much in demand Amish furniture.

One place that offers both is the world famous Shady Maple complex.

When Shady Maple Smorgasbord moved into a larger building across the parking lot a few years ago, the former restaurant building became home to one of the largest and best furniture stores in the area, Country Home Furniture.

The store is now celebrating its 12th anniversary in business.

According to management, "We like to think we're helping to preserve a little piece of America's furniture making history. Our craftsmen are steeped in tradition. They deeply care about their work. That's what Lancaster County is about – history, pride and dignity."

On two floors and 30,000 square feet of selling space in their retail store, you will find eight manufacturers of American-made sofas and recliners, made in North Carolina, Ohio and Mississippi, in addition to over 30 manufacturers of solid wood dining, bedroom, office, occasional and entertainment... and the area's largest selection of Amish furniture.

The hardwood pieces come from American hand-crafters and Amish builders in Ohio, Indiana and right here in Lancaster County.

With hundreds of stylish products in traditional, transitional, modern and country looks on the floor, there is something for everyone.

Unlike other stores where your only choices are what you see, at Country Home Furniture, you can have a hand in every facet of your design. That's the beauty of shopping there.

Customers love the flexibility to have a piece made for them by selecting the wood, stain, hardware and fabric.

"We sincerely encourage you to experience this for yourself. You can certainly buy off the floor or have something made new for you, as you see it. 50% of our customers do that. The other 50% let their imagination run wild. We have stain block boards and fabric handles available throughout the store to give our customers the opportunity to engage in the fascinating process of getting exactly what you want in the style, shape, size and color desired. It's distinctive furniture, made for you, your way. It's fun, and it's easy."

Why shop now? "We have all kinds of special pricing deals and delivery specials going on right now, and we are looking forward to finishing out 2012 in a great way."

If beautiful, quality, brand new, solid wood, American handcrafted furniture are important to you, then you owe it to yourself to explore Country Home Furniture. As they like to say, it's "worth the drive to the countryside" to come see the craftsmanship first hand, then enjoy your meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord - two great things that make Lancaster County famous.

Country Home Furniture is open Monday and Friday 10-7, Tuesday through Thursday 10-5, and Saturdays 9-5. The entire complex at Shady Maple is closed on Sundays. 🐾

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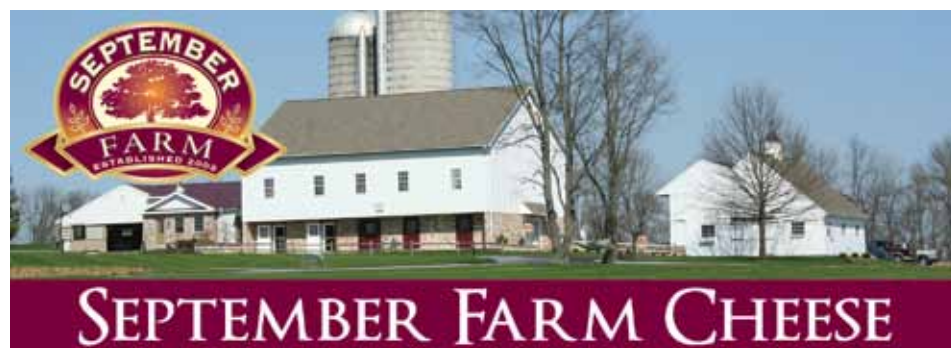
For more information, call 717-354-2329, go online to www.chfs1.com or email sales@chfs1.com. GPS address is 1352 Main Street, East Earl Township, PA.

FIDDLER Comes to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

by Clinton Martin

If I were a rich man...I wouldn't even look at the ticket prices at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Well, I'm not, and fortunately it doesn't matter for I can not only sing along to

the many songs I have committed to memory over the years as I enjoy the delightful FIDDLER ON THE ROOF on stage, but I can also feast at a buffet of goodies, fully satisfying my hunger and entertainment needs in one great evening.



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Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre's grand stage is surrounded by comfortable seating for 380 guests. Locals have long appreciated Dutch Apple's consistently professional and entertaining productions. First-time visitors, after reading our reviews of Dutch Apple shows, have told us that they were surprised to discover the entertainment value here that they would have thought could only be found at larger theaters in metropolitan areas. We're used to it and returning visitors now are as well.

Beginning August 9th, audiences will be treated with a visit to the little village of Anatevka, the setting for FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Even if you've seen this Tony Award Best Musical played elsewhere, count on the Dutch Apple cast to bring it to life anew with this new National Tour production. Returning to the role of Tevye, the poor milkman at the center of the story is Jimmy Ferraro, who many might recognize from Broadway and his National Tours.

Anatevka may seem like a world away, but when Tevye grapples with his family's traditions versus his daughters' wishes to go their own way, his is an easily relatable situation that brings empathy, emotion, and more than a little bit of humor to audiences.

Close your eyes for a moment and hum along with me to the classics MATCHMAKER, IF I WERE A RICH MAN, and SUNRISE SUNSET, tunes so recognizable that your own rendition will have to suffice until you call 717-898-1900 for show times and reservations.

The theater is easy to get to by traveling west on Route 30 from Lancaster, taking the Centerville Road exit. Turn right onto Centerville Road, and Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre is a block ahead on the left. There's more to be found at DutchApple.com.

10,000

Number of items available at
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the famous Shoo-Fly Pie.

Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage

All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Sight & Sound Theatres, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

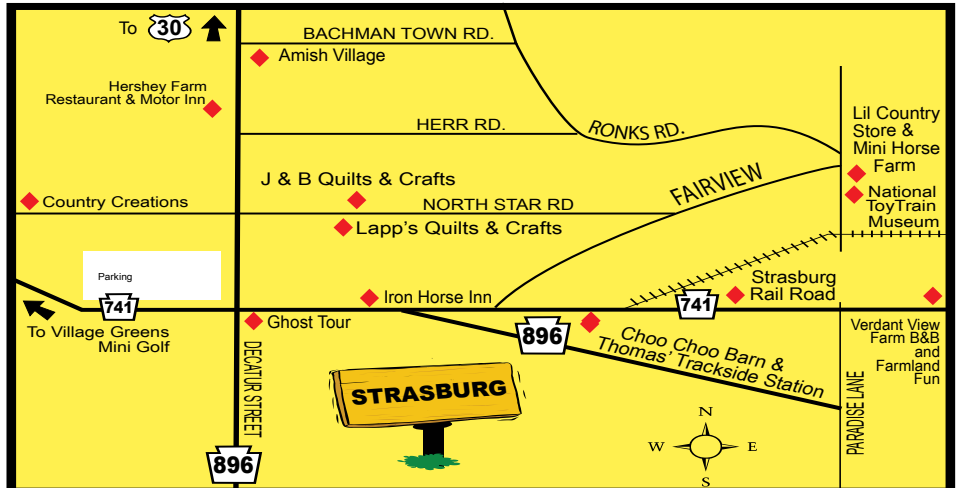
Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along

the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial

interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series

Continued on Page 25





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Village Greens...Where the Golf is Mini, But the Fun is Not!

by Clinton Martin

Visitors to Amish Country love the beautiful rolling hills and scenic panoramas of our countryside, unless of course they are trying to tap a golf ball around one of those hills while avoiding a sand-trap or the swinging arms

of a windmill, needing the perfect angle to hear that satisfying "plunk" and the joyous refrains of "Hole in One!"

It seems no matter how many times one takes on the uniquely picturesque, always fun, but ever-challenging courses at Village Greens Mini Golf



in Strasburg, there is always one hole that takes the score skyward. The family-fun of a visit to Village Greens is reason enough for a first-time outing, but the desire to keep bettering your scores is cause for multiple rounds.

Continued on Page 26

The Ultimate At-TRACK-tion



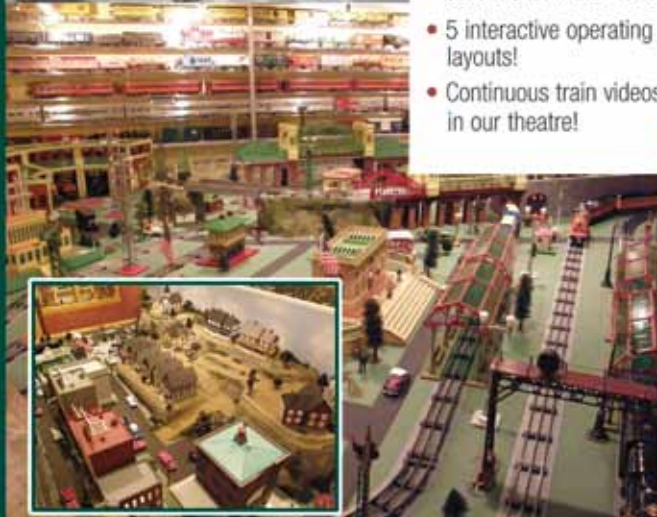
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of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the



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end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 🚂

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Village Greens Continued from Page 24

Of course, sometimes, as any golfer will agree, the greens just don't roll your way. Such was the case for one unknown visitor, who not only bogeyed his way through his round, but apparently lost something very dear to him at the end of the visit, the discovery of which came from a customer notice to the Village Greens manager that the commode in the restroom had not been functioning properly. Management, of course, acted right away to discover the problem, but ended up having to remove it from its base and replace it with a brand new one.

With the help of a sledge hammer they determined to find out what had doomed the toilet to the scrap yard. What they found was a perfectly

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stuck Verizon LTG Smartphone. No word on whether this would be counted a hole in one and a free round at Village Greens, but it seems to me that there are better ways to become eligible for a phone upgrade!

Play a round and keep an eye on the ball, and your cell phone, at Village Greens Mini Golf.

Amish Series

Continued from Page 15

Back home, they discover that "YE SUCK" has been painted on their house. Eli explains an Amish feud has been declared. Ezekiel has raked the leaves and mowed the lawn to rob the English of "the joy of doing chores."

Dad rounds up his two buddies and a truck armed with technology and weapons to do battle with the Amish. The two sides square off in the bucolic countryside. The Amish use their suspenders as slingshots to shoot apples at the intruders. Successful, the Amish drag Dad's buddies away wrapped in quilts.

Dad returns with more weapons to demolish the Amish barn. But, since the Amish manage to rebuild the barn in a matter of seconds each time it is destroyed, Dad resolves to settle the dispute with Ezekiel by way of an old-fashioned fist fight.

Suddenly the family arrives by car. Reasoning with their parents, the two children stop the feuding fathers. Eli tells his father that to keep corruption from the community, Ezekiel has himself become corrupt. The chastened father tells Eli he may make his choice. Eli surprises everyone proclaiming that although his "eyes have been opened to the world beyond home, this is where I belong." The two families make up and celebrate their friendship riding a roller coaster together at a nearby amusement park.

I haven't scratched the surface of the many irreverent, even offensive, one-liners and outlandish flashbacks that are the staple of this series. But I must admit I did laugh out loud as fun was poked at the stereotypes so many have about the Amish, not to mention the foibles of our modern society. While not for children, I appreciate that it was the "wisdom" of the kids that overcame the adult prejudices. And, it might be cool to have a talking dog, though I wouldn't want one whose intellect surpassed my own. 

**Coming Next Month:
More Amish Movies**

The courses are open seven days a week. Hours vary by day, so call ahead at 717-687-6933 or visit www.villagegreens.com for details. Village Greens is located on Route 741 (Village Road) west of Strasburg's town center. 

The View From The Bottom...Milking a Cow at Verdant View Farm

by Clinton Martin



DISNEY CHANNEL, the DAILY SHOW with John Stewart, CBS' THIS MORNING, and ABC's GOOD MORNING AMERICA all have a common Amish Country link. If you guessed feature coverage of Verdant View Farm, you nailed it! Why Verdant View? Well you're probably curious enough now that you've already Map-Quested them at 429 Strasburg Road, Paradise 17562. But we'll whet your curiosity a little more just for fun.

Don and Ginny Ranck have been welcoming visitors to their working farm since 1967 when they opened their one-of-a-kind bed and breakfast inn. Today, the inn is still an important part of what seems to me to be their unlimited energy. But there's lots more. Whether you're an overnight guest or a day visitor, sign up for the "farm and barn tour" and become an instant farmhand with the chance to milk a cow, feed a calf, or help tend a menagerie of other friendly farm animals. City-slickers learn how cows make milk and how barns are built as they hold irresistibly friendly fluffy farm animals.

For a more in-depth experience, the "wagon ride and farm tour" adds a tractor-pulled wagon ride through Verdant View's fields of corn, hay, and other seasonal crops. Finally, if you simply must feel the farm-fresh fields through your fingers, the "farmer's apprentice" experience is for you. You might make your own cheese, quilt with fabric and thread, or pop real off-the-cob popping corn. In no time at all, city-slicker no more and experiencing life down on the farm can now be scratched off your bucket list!

Tours are generally offered 7:30am to 4:30pm daily. (Verdant View is closed Sundays.) Located along Route 741, just east of the Strasburg Rail Road, call 717-687-7353 for reservations (recommended) and additional information. 



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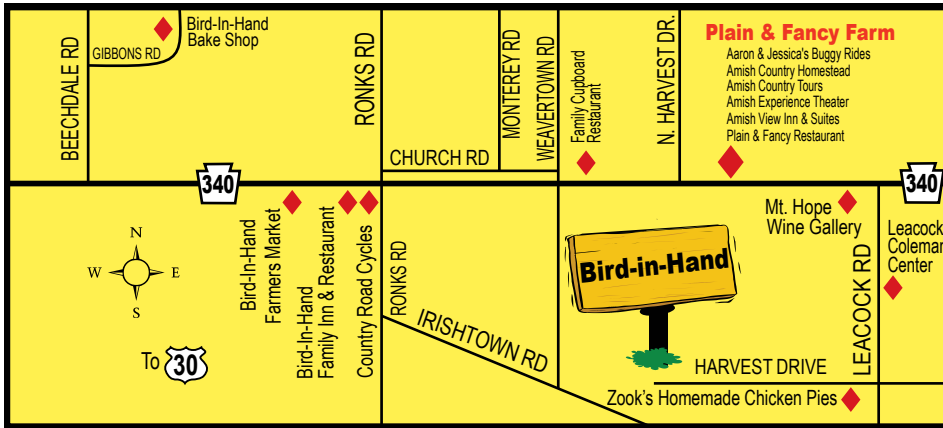
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Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

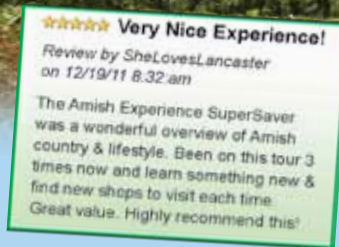


Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night, one of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched.

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

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by Clinton Martin

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and Intercourse, but soon turn off of this scenic thoroughfare onto quieter country lanes bordering Amish farms that have been tilled by the same Amish families for generations.

Many visitors are happy to see that there isn't a piece of ground the rides pass that isn't farmed by horses and mules. This is truly Amish Country. The buggy drivers represent the many different groups of "Plain" people – Amish, Mennonite, Brethren, and other sects. They offer up their own experiences in the horse-and-buggy life, and answer questions along the way. The basic

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Kids love buggy rides and Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides is understandably popular with families. No reservations are necessary. There is seldom a wait, but if there is, you'll find a cozy picnic grove on site to sit a spell. Aaron & Jessica's is open seven days a week. Look for the little red covered bridge on the west side of Plain & Fancy Farm. 



This photo by Ray Smecker was almost a winner in our 2011 photo contest. Think you have what it takes to snap a winner? Email editor@amishnews.com



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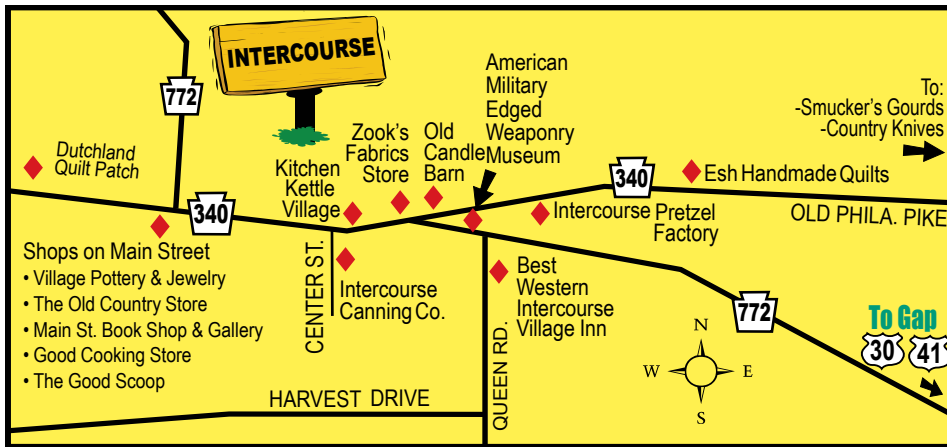
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Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

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The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

Continued on Page 35

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The Amish

Experience



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at Plain & Fancy Farm

This year marked the 53rd anniversary of Plain & Fancy Farm as the very first family-style restaurant. It remains a legendary dining experience. At the same time, Amish Country Tours (Dutchland Tours) began the first regularly scheduled tours for visitors through the scenic Amish farmlands. And 1959 also marked the opening of the Amish Country Homestead, the only Amish house tour designated a Heritage Site by Lancaster County.

room. An Amish schoolteacher helped decorate the room to give it the feel of a real school. It's all included in the house tour.



Interpreting the ever-changing Amish culture respectfully and accurately is no easy task. The authenticity of the Amish Country Homestead resulted in its designation as the only Heritage Site Amish house tour in Lancaster County.

Jacob struggles to decide whether to remain in the Amish faith.

An important missing link in most tellings of the Amish story is the persecution of the Anabaptists in Europe and the perilous journey to America. Rather than observe, visitors will now feel a part of history as special effects, including an amazing technology called "Pepper's Ghost," combine with smoke, wind, rain, and fire effects in a wrap-around barnyard setting.

A superb blending of entertainment and education, this touching and exciting production has moved some people to tears and children to exclaim "Wow!" This show, which has been called "400 years of history in 40 minutes of magic," can only be seen here in Lancaster, so be sure to make it a part of your visit. (Shows on the hour.)



Amish House Tour Unravels Riddles

Amish people wouldn't appreciate visitors walking through their homes all day...nor would you! So the best way to see the inside of a house is on a tour. At the Amish Country Homestead, the staff is committed to interpreting the changing Amish lifestyle. Rather than a museum, it has the feel of a real, "lived in" home. Guides take visitors on a fascinating 45-minute tour through the nine rooms. Discover how church is held in the home and hear the singing. See how Mom does her laundry---with a gasoline engine! Upstairs learn about Plain dress, while the kids enjoy the marble rollers.

The Fisher Amish Schoolroom is where you (or the kids) can sit at actual Amish school desks and learn how all eight grades are taught in one

Amish Hi-Tech

In 1995, a new concept in interpreting Amish life debuted when the Amish Experience F/X Theater became only the third "experiential" theater in North America. The goal of this one-of-a-kind project was to give a more personal, intimate view of the Amish, connecting past to present. Rather than a somber documentary, the story goes inside an Amish family as their son



Where the Amish Live & Work

Visitors who simply drive around looking at Amish farms rarely come away with much insight into the unique culture that attracts people from around the world. Amish Country Tours provide certified guides to take visitors down the backroads, deep into the farmlands and scenery that is as beautiful now as it was 50 years ago. Guides offer fascinating information on one-room schools, farming practices, "cottage

\$3 Amish Experience OFF Theater

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www.AmishExperience.com



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Plain & Fancy — Farm to Table Since 1959

industries,” wedding customs, and more. Did you know there are Amish millionaires?

Amish Farmland Tours	
Monday-Saturday 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm	Sunday 10:00am, 12:00pm 2:00pm

But you are not just sitting on the 14-passenger shuttle the whole time. Whenever possible, a stop is made at an actual Amish farm. Other stops may include a local bakeshop, roadside stand, or craft shop. Having a guide is recommended over tape tours, which are often outdated and can never answer questions about special activities you may see that day. Purchase tickets for this 90-minute tour online at AmishExperience.com. Click on "Tickets" in the upper right hand corner of the page.

A Lancaster Original

Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are the Amish farmers who supply the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant with sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant go “from farm to table” for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today’s Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast

Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known for being Lancaster County’s original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, dried sweet corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. A \$3 off coupon valid for each adult in the party can be found adjacent to this article.

The New “ala carte” Menu

The restaurant also offers a new ala carte menu featuring mouth watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters. The ala carte menu is also a great value with Lunch Specials from \$7.95 and Dinner Specials from \$10.95.

The Country Store

Find books, DVDs, candles, souvenirs and local handcrafts, and more. Explore The Country Store’s collection of traditional Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, toys and dolls,

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The Original Amish Farm Feast as featured on
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\$3 off
Lancaster's Original Amish Farm Feast

Feast includes entrees, sides, starters, beverages and desserts and is valid for up to 6 adults. Not valid Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving or w/ any other offer, special, group rate. Not valid on ala carte menu. Expires 12/31/12 **PLU 505**

and discover new treasures to adorn your kitchen and home. You'll find seasonal items as well as Christmas decorations, available year-round. The store also features Kauffman's Fruit Farm jams and jellies, bakery fresh items from Miller's Bakery, and Plain & Fancy chow chow and apple butter.

AmishView Inn & Suites

While you're at Plain & Fancy Farm, you're invited to stroll up and visit AmishView Inn & Suites, a classically beautiful hotel that features elegant accommodations and incredible views. If time permits, a front desk representative can provide you with a quick tour of the hotel. The

indoor pool, fitness center, arcade, whirlpools and fireplaces make AmishView perfect for an intimate getaway, family vacation, or corporate retreat. Complimentary hot country breakfast, wireless internet, HBO, DVD players, special amenities and kitchenettes come with every room.

Where It All Began

With all of these amenities and attractions in one beautiful location surrounded by Amish farmland, the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy is the ideal starting point to enjoy all that the area has to offer as you create your own special Lancaster County experience!

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Intercourse, PA

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DOLLY BODACIOUS presents HER TREASURES

Intercourse (Cont'd From Page 31)

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought

books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for \$6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Visitor's Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone. 

Visit us online at www.AmishNews.com
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Come Relax at Our Farm: Riehl's Quilt's & Crafts

by Clinton Martin

Sam and Susie Riehl began married life as dairy farmers, just like many other young Amish couples. The family farm was an ideal place to raise a family, to work in a traditional environment.

Susie's mother lived with the couple, and found a useful way to contribute to the family's well-being by making and selling quilts from the basement of the house.

The dairy operation was still priority number one, but the quilts certainly helped the family with an important boost. As time went on, and milk prices continued to lag behind the cost

of producing it, the quilts became even more important.

These days, the dairy cows are gone, having been sent to a budding young farmer just starting out. The farm is still humming with activity however, as hay fields flourish and the barn never is quite empty! The quilt shop has grown and expanded from being in the basement to a stand-alone beautifully constructed store right next to the barn.

It has become a common sight for the Riehl family to be hitching up the team of horses for some field work, and then ten minutes later be greeting visitors from near and far, helping them find just the right quilt. Just as the quilt business



has grown, so too has their line of locally hand-made products.

Nineteen years later, you can find an excellent variety of quilts, crafts, canned goods, books, and of course the interesting multi-use "quillow" that you'll just have to go and ask about.

All in all, the family business is supported by no less than 70 local Amish families that produce goods for sale, work in the shop, or lend a hand in other ways. Call 717-656-0697 for hours and directions. 



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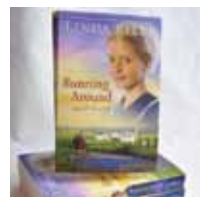
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Choo Choo Barn: En-Gauging Visitors for 51 Years

Special to Amish Country News



The O, HO and N Gauge trains captivate visitors as they chug down the tracks at one of the largest, hand-built model train displays in America. The Choo Choo Barn –Traintown, U.S.A.® - located in Strasburg, PA, features more than 150 animations and 22 operating trains. This 1,700 square foot handcrafted, work-of-art is packed with small-scale local landmarks and detailed scenes from Lancaster County.

From a parade to a circus, to the brand new animated tree house and updated model cars, the creativity and attention to detail at the Choo Choo Barn is nothing short of amazing. After

almost 1,000 hours of renovations over the winter, the model train layout offers new 2012 features to enhance the realistic detail across the layout. Serving as Tom Groff's canvas, the display is a true work of art from this expert of model railroading. Be prepared to view the display in both daylight and starlight, as the entire room transforms every 10 minutes from day to night. New this year, 60 vehicles were equipped with headlights – adding even more interest to the nighttime scene!

The Choo Choo Barn display is open daily through December 31 from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with last admission at 4:30 p.m. Admission



price is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3-11. For more information and to learn about group rates, please call (717) 687-7911 or visit www.choochoobarn.com. For more details and updates, check out Choo Choo Barn on Facebook: www.facebook.com/choochoobarn.

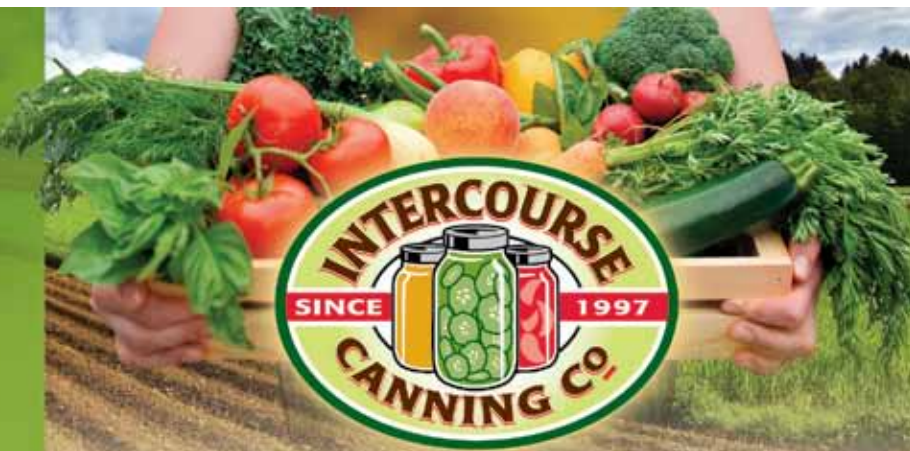


Guests at Loxley's Restaurant can grab a seat at one of three bars, surrounding a real tree growing through the center.

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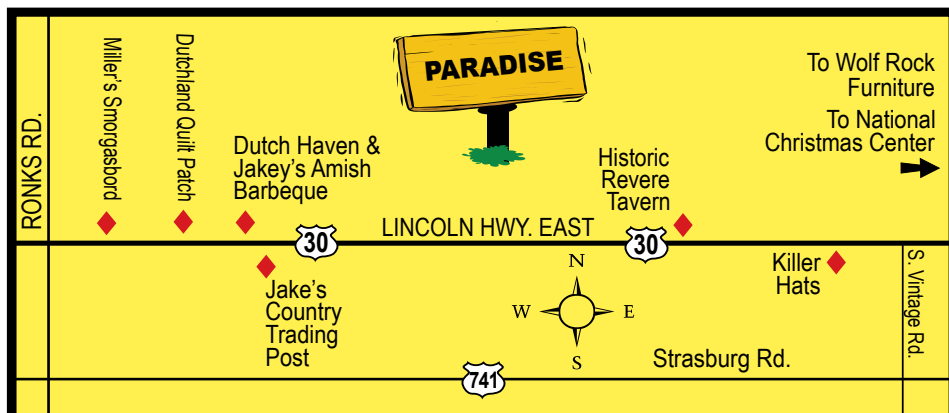
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Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, just one of our many intriguing town names. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that the Pike was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The turnpike opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna."

Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope you can see that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm! 🐾

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www.NationalChristmasCenter.com

Amish Country's Only Port-of-Call... The Fulton Steamboat Inn

by Clinton Martin



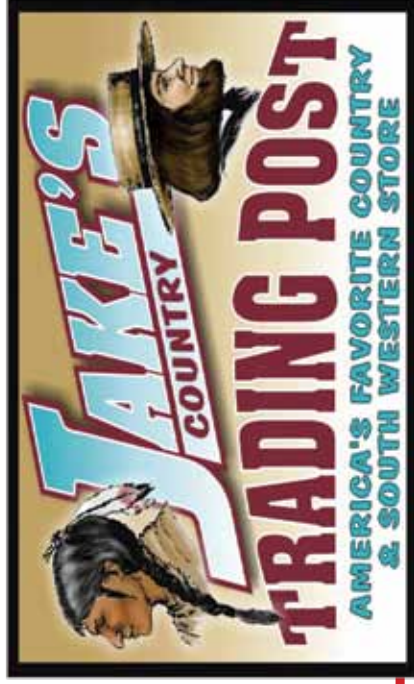
Visitors to Amish Country are surprised to see a Riverboat “docked” at the intersection of Routes 896 and 30. Some tend to write the place off as kitschy and touristy. But wait! The steamboat theme does indeed belong in Amish Country. The legendary inventor Robert Fulton, who gave birth to the first commercially viable steamboat, was born and raised right here in Amish Country. The hotel pays homage with its moniker, its theme, and atmosphere.

A fun and unique first impression sets the Fulton Steamboat apart from other lodging options, but without the exceptional guest service, spacious rooms, and its delicious “on-board” dining, Amish Country’s sternwheeler could not have survived and prospered. Don’t take my word for it, fire up the iPad and review the reviews which can be found online at TripAdvisor and all the usual places.

You won’t regret booking your next Amish Country vacation at the Fulton Steamboat Inn. I’m quite sure of it. The details await at fultonsteamboatinn.com. 

40"

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A Savory Seven of Things to See & Do in Amish Country When You're Hungry

by Clinton Martin

1. Order Dessert – Or should I say, start with dessert? Amish Country has an amazing variety of don't-tell-your-doctor sweets to nibble on. Try a whoopie pie from Hershey Farm. They are handheld, portable, come in cellophane that can be re-wrapped to save for later, and don't just come in chocolate anymore. www.hersheyfarm.com

2. Twist a Pretzel – Pretzel bakeries in Amish Country offer visitors the lessons in the flick

of the wrist needed to make pretty pretzels. Don't worry – you don't get graded, and the fun comes later when you take home a couple of the artisan snacks to munch on afterwards. www.intercoursepretzelfactory.com and www.juliussturgis.com

3. Sip a Sample – For those over 21, local wineries and breweries abound. Visit the Lancaster Beer and Wine Gallery for tastings (www.lancaster-gallery.com) or try a pint and a



sandwich at the Lancaster Brewing Co (www.lancasterbrewing.com). For the whole family, Amish Country refreshes with farm-fresh milk, cold-pressed apple cider, and even the famous Turkey Hill Iced Tea. Visit the Turkey Hill Experience to learn about and, of course, taste the delicious iced tea that has taken the country by storm. www.turkeyhillexperience.com

4. Have a Pot Pie That is Actually a Pie – Amish Country is famous for the dumpling-based stew-like pot pie that can be found at almost every PA Dutch restaurant. You'll be surprised and pleased to learn that a local Amish family has been baking up delicious in-the-crust chicken pot-pies for generations. Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies doesn't have a website, so you'll have to pick up the phone. 717-768-0239. Better yet, make a visit!

5. Give Back With Your Good Taste – A fine meal in a delightful setting does sound nice, but dining at Loxley's Restaurant provides not only a very tasty meal in a really cool setting, but a warm and fuzzy feeling of helping others. Every month, a different local charity receives 5% of each food check at Loxley's. The program has helped organizations from scouting to cancer societies to educational programs. www.loxleyslanaster.com

6. Eat, Sleep, Breathe Chocolate – We have Amish Country's dairy cows to thank that Milton S. Hershey chose to set up his chocolate factory right here in what of course is now known as Hershey PA. Take a tour, make your own candy bar, soak in a chocolate spa, or simply savor. www.hersheyschocolateworld.com

7. Bite Into a Cheddar That Has Bite – Aged cheddars are deliciously zippy, and Amish Country's very own September Farm Cheese is a dairy farm that indeed supplies the milk, but also fashions it by hand in small batches into true farmstead cheeses. The cheddars range in "age" from three months to three years and more. Make the drive and taste for yourself. www.septemberfarmcheese.com 



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Mennonite Information Center Helps Visitors Understand Local Heritage

by Clinton Martin

Anabaptist, Mennonite, Amish, Plain People, PA Dutch – At some point the definitions of each are intertwined with the other, but differences remain. Just who are the Amish? What are the differences between Amish and Mennonite beliefs, and are all the Pa Dutch people Plain? Visitors to Amish Country (and probably many locals) frequently ask such questions. The Mennonite Information Center is the definitive place to unravel the riddles and begin to understand the history of Amish culture and heritage.

The Center offers personal guided tours of the Amish countryside, sending tour guides in visitors' cars. This one-on-one approach offers the opportunity to learn about the Amish and Mennonites in an individually tailored way. Also at the Center is the documentary-style feature production **WHO ARE THE AMISH?** The on-site bookshop stocks many Anabaptist-themed titles ranging from academic works to fun fictional stories, as well as a fair-trade gift shop that helps support the world-wide mission efforts of the Mennonite Church.



Learn about Amish farms and lifestyle with a visit to the Mennonite Information Center.

Interestingly, the Mennonite Information Center is home to an extremely unique attraction, the Biblical Tabernacle Reproduction. It was created in the late 1940's as the "Moses Tabernacle in the Wilderness" by a Baptist minister in St. Petersburg, Florida. A group of Mennonites later purchased the replica and relocated it next to the Mennonite Information Center here in Amish Country. Thousands from many different reli-

gious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds come to the replica every year and find this lecture tour an interesting part of their visit.

The Mennonite Information Center is located on Route 30, just one mile west of Dutch Wonderland. Call 717-299-0954 or visit www.mennoniteinfoctr.com for details. 

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Crystal Cave

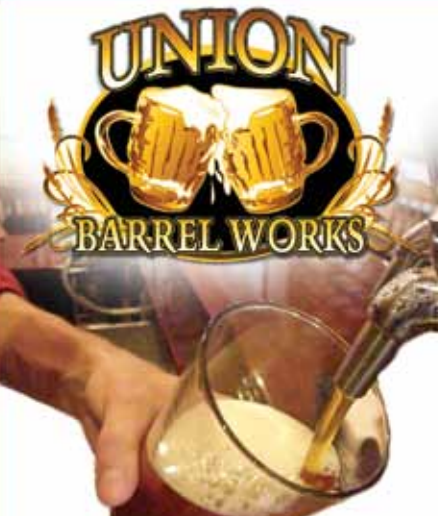
(Cont'd From Page 20)

in Victorian costume, professional guides will point out the history and geology of the cave, including a dose of local folklore and wives' tales that haven't been shared with visitors for years.

While not necessarily meant to be scary, due to its nature the tour is not intended for children under the age of eight. Reservations are suggested. Call 610-683-6765. Rates for this special tour are \$20.00 for adults, \$12.00 for children ages 8 – 11.

Crystal Cave makes a great day-trip from your Amish Country headquarters and is located between Reading and Allentown, just a short distance from Route 222 (Kutztown/Virginville Exit). Easy-to-read signs guide you the five or so miles from Route 222 to the cave's visitor center. Visit www.crystalcavepa.com for details. 

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Critics Confirm

AMISH COUNTRY NEWS Kudos

If you're a regular reader, you know that the Union Barrel Works is one of our favorite eateries. We've opined as to menu items we considered particularly special as well as the hand-crafted beers made on site with care and passion. This time around, we'll let the popular web site and the Yelp community tell the tale.

"...Exceptional dinner service in the dining room, perfect waiter who knew when to whisk things away and when to leave us alone. Saturday night, not all that crowded. Pleasant airy and high ceilings, rustic. Olivetapenadestarter was perfectly chopped, intelligently composed, with pita triangles. Onion soup was as good as this gets. Lots of cheese, deep beef flavor. Smoked trout chowder was incredibly good ... would love to have the recipe. I could have eaten nothing but that. Tender bits of trout, not a hint of gumminess or overkill with thickener. Superb. Seared ahi tuna arrived with a faint wasabi drizzle, perfectly cooked, very fresh flavor, generous portion. Same vegetable medley cooked to al dente but more than just waved over steam. Tried two craft beers, and couldn't tell you what they were other than very good..."

This is but a sampling of the Yelp comments. This place is not just very cool, but the food and the brew never fail to satisfy. Make the worthwhile short trip to Reamstown, just off RT 272 between Ephrata and Adamstown. The pub is at the intersection of Church Street and Reamstown Road. Call 717.335.7837 

School's In Session at the Amish Village

by Clinton Martin

Whether or not summer school vacation is in full swing, at the Amish Village along Route 896 north of Strasburg, school is definitely in full swing, at least every

Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm that is. This is a different kind of learning, however, as the one-room school on-site isn't welcoming back Amish pupils for the upcoming school year, but rather is



welcoming visitors to see this re-creation of an Amish one-room school up close and personal.

As an educational treat, the Amish Village will have an actual Amish school teacher stationed at the schoolhouse for informal chats. Miss Lavina will be glad to talk to you about the Amish way of education and what it's like to be in an Amish one-room school.

Also to be enjoyed at the 20 acre site are guided Amish house tours and the village grounds featuring farm animals, a blacksmith shop, a smokehouse, and a windmill with a waterwheel. Activities are available seven days a week. Call 717-687-8511 or visit www.theamishvillage.net for more information.



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AMISH CO NEWS

New Amish Adventure Tour Showcases Amish Entrepreneurs

by Clinton Martin



There are Amish tours, and then, there are Amish Tours. The new Amish Adventure Tour from the Amish Experience at Plain and Fancy Farm is a departure from the introductory-overview tours offered by the Experience since 1959. In fact, this Company has made a practice of offering in-depth personal experience tours including its acclaimed Visit-in-Person and Witness Movie Tours.

The new Amish Adventure Tour dares to go where no tour has gone before. Designed not only to provide insight into our Amish community, this "adventure" reveals to visitors that the Amish aren't all traditional farmers, quilters, and furniture makers. Indeed, while the community does embrace such vocations, there are a handful of Amish entrepreneurs involved in outside-the-box ventures that just have to be seen to be believed.

Each night features a visit to a different Amish property. Before the Amish visit, you're treated to a scenic sunset drive through Amish Country that includes a stop at a local dairy farm for a farm and dairy-made ice cream cone. Make no mistake --- this is no ordinary ice cream as it is made right on the Mennonite farm where the cows are milked. Explore a little and take a peek and a picture of the automated machines that milk the cows.

With the delightful taste of the freshest ice cream you'll find anywhere, the drive continues on to the Amish destination.

Mondays feature John, the "Basket Maker," and his family who hand weave beautiful museum-quality baskets. You'll enjoy the demonstration of

the process from start to finish right in the home where the family lives. This is a rare chance to talk to the crafter himself as he "weaves" his mastery before your eyes.

Tuesdays and Thursdays feature a futuristic farmer, one you'd least likely expect in Amish Country. Sam, the "Futuristic Farmer," grows lettuce "in the air" on a "farm" more akin to Star Trek than the traditional horse-drawn plowed field. Tall revolving towers watered every 20 minutes produce over 2,000 heads of lettuce a week, much of it for Whole Food Stores. Can it be that the future is here in Amish Country?

Fridays feature an Amish goat farm. Amos, the "Goat Cheese Maker," lives just down the lane

past an Amish one-room school. You'll "aren't they cute" at the adorable goats as you listen to the story behind the artisanal goat's milk cheese (and one-of-a-kind goat's milk soap) he crafts.

Better get onboard soon as The Amish Adventure Tour runs only for a limited time. Tours are limited to 14 passengers and are available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Tours depart from the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm on RT 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse at 5:00pm sharp and last a little over two hours. Cost is \$34.95 per person, and pre-paid reservations really are strongly suggested. Call 717-768-8400 ext. 210 or visit www.amishexperience.com for details. 

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Lunch & Dinner is served 7 Days (from 11:30am)
Breakfast is served on Saturdays & Sundays only (from 7:30am)



The Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

A Spectacle to Behold!

Special to Amish Country News



refrains of “God Save The Queen” by 100’s of colorfully costumed townsfolk, and guests like you, eager to celebrate a day of mirth and merriment unlike any that has preceded it.

Non-Stop Revelry

More than 90 shows fill the Faire’s 11 stages including a three-story replica of Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, so you’ll want to arrive early, even before the ringing of

the village bell at 11am which marks the commencement of the festivities, and stay through the rousing Finale In Song at 8pm.

It’s impossible not to marvel at the sword swallows, fire eaters, magicians, jugglers and dare-devil tumblers whose antics please Fairegoers of all ages. Before you know it, you’re singing along with handsome rogues and flirtatious wenches beckoning you to join in their playful performance. Looking skyward, you are captivated by an amazing display of the Royal Falconer’s birds of prey in flight. You follow the crowds to the Human Chess Match, a stunt-filled extravaganza complete with swords, hand-to-hand combat and fast-paced wit, played on a massive 40’ x 40’ chess board and long one of the most popular revels of the festival day.

Too Real Not To Be

The excitement of the day builds from the morning’s Queen’s Court to the dramatic Ultimate Joust. In the largest arena of its kind in North America, a tour d’ force of lance, shield and equestrian skill unfolds as thousands of pounds of man, horse and steel gallop fearlessly toward each other. The impact reverberates above the breathless throng as lances shatter and noble knights fall to the ground in battle so lifelike that it must surely be real.

Royal Feasting

Twenty Royal Kitchens serve forth an endless array of delicious foods and 16th



century favorites from giant smoked turkey legs to steak-on-a-stake, fish-n-chips, Scotch eggs and savory soups in bread bowls. There are freshly baked pastries, heaping scoops of Italian gelato, hearth baked pizzas and an aroma of newly ground coffee beans that leads you inevitably to the Dark Knight Cafe. At the Swashbuckler Brewpub the Faire’s very own micro-brewed ales quench thirsts with very special handmade artisan beers. Of course this is Mount Hope Estate and Winery and complimentary samplings of award winning wines are available in the Wine Shoppe and for purchase by the glass at Bacchus’s Retreat.

A Village of Guildsmen

Banter and barter with the scores of Renaissance inspired artisans demonstrating and selling their ancient wares. The glassblower creating one of a kind works of art, the blacksmith hammering out swords for Her Majesty’s knights, silversmiths, herbalists, potters and dozens more all help deepen the illusion of a country holiday and marketplace of long ago.

Adult admission is \$29.95 and child admission, ages 5 to 11, is \$10.95. Games, rides, foods, beverages and crafts are an additional fee. Parking is free. Visit PaRenFaire.com for complete show details, helpful tips for a fun-filled Faire day and discounted advance tickets. 

The Shire of Mount Hope once again brings to life the fantasy of bygone days and knights as the castle gates swing wide to the 32nd season of the glorious Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire on the National Register of Historic Places site of Mount Hope Estate & Winery. Just minutes from the Amish farmlands on Route 72, ¼ mile south of PA Turnpike Exit 266, north of Lancaster, this rollicking trip back in time to Merrie Olde England spans 13 glorious weekends and Labor Day Monday, August 4 through October 28.

Imagine Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth I, some 400 years ago, arriving at Her favorite summer retreat in full processional led by Her court jester followed by regally adorned lords, ladies, and nobles of all types. The entourage is greeted by the cheers and hearty



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What Is Your Quilt Worth? by Suzan Ellis

Every quilt has value. Sometimes the value is purely sentimental and sometimes a quilt can have a substantial monetary value. It often surprises people to learn what their quilts are and are not worth.

There are many reasons why you might want to know the actual value of your quilt or quilt collection. You might want to make sure that the quilts are covered from potential loss with

a rider to your home insurance policy. Perhaps, you are trying to find a "fair market value" so that you can sell your quilts. Or, maybe you need the information for the IRS in case of a donation or estate settlement.

The best way to substantiate the value of a quilt is with an appraisal from a certified quilt appraiser. Certified quilt appraisers are highly trained, tested, and accredited. They are able to provide written estimates that are generally accepted by insurance companies and the IRS

New Crazy Quilt appraised for \$2300.00.

as proof of the value of a quilt. Certified quilt appraisers can be found on the internet in virtually every state. Many quilt shows will also feature appraisers who will do walk-in appraisals for the public.

Most appraisers will offer you two options for having your quilt appraised. A verbal appraisal costs less and will give you general information about the quilt. You will likely be given a fair market value or a ballpark replacement value. If you are trying to sell your quilt, this may be all you need. However, you should be aware that insurance companies and the IRS will not accept a verbal appraisal when valuing a quilt.

A written quilt appraisal will cost more and take more time. It will yield a wealth of information about your quilt and give you all the documentation that you will likely need for substantiating the value and provenance of your quilt. Be prepared for an interview regarding all the facts and stories that you know about your quilt. If you have receipts to show what you paid for the quilt or for the materials that you purchased for the quilt, it will certainly be helpful to the appraiser.



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An appraiser will generally take pictures of the quilt and do a physical measurement. She will note the type of fabrics and try to determine the kind of batting that was used. The type of pattern will be identified and whether the quilt was hand or machine stitched.

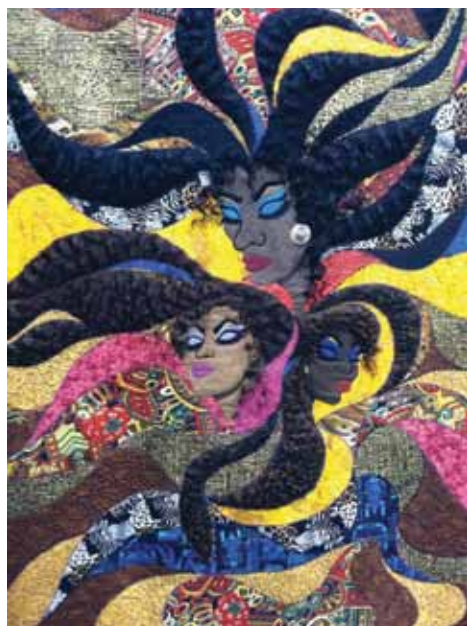
Antique quilts can be dated fairly accurately by the types and prints of the fabrics that were used. The area of the country that the quilt originated in can often be extrapolated by the type of battings used. For instance, fat battings were most often used in the South and thin battings in the North. Once the appraiser has established the era of the quilt she can make a valuation based on comparable sales in the marketplace.

Contemporary quilts are usually valued on the cost to have the quilts remade. The appraiser will look at what the replacement value of the fabrics, threads, batting, and any embellishments



Longarm quilting uses a specialized machine to put the finishing touches on a quilt.

The American Quilter's Society produces quilt shows all over the country, but one of the biggest is right here in Amish Country. Held at the spectacular Lancaster County Convention Center in the vibrant downtown of Lancaster City, the quilt show offers classes, seminars, artist meet & greets, and of course a massive display of amazing quilts. Mark your calendars now for the 2013 show, held March 13 – 16. Prepare to have your idea of contemporary quilting forever altered.



Other quilts portray pictorial designs, combining thread and fabric to paint a scene.

would be. Then they will factor in the labor to have the quilt remade. If the quilt was hand quilted, what would it cost per hour to have it hand quilted? If the quilt was machine quilted, what would it cost to have it duplicated? There are often other unseen variables that can affect the potential value. Was the quilt made for a special event? Did it win any awards? Was the quilter well-known? The appraiser will take all of these details, and more, into account before arriving at a valuation.

When you receive your certified written appraisal, put it in a safe place with your other important papers. While it's never pleasant to think of losing quilts that are part of your family history, or that you have made putting in hundreds of hours of painstaking work, you will feel better knowing that you stand a good chance of being compensated for their loss.

If you never have to use the appraisal, just think how much you will learn about your quilt. You may even be inspired to become a certified quilt appraiser (quilt detective) yourself! 🐾



Suzan Ellis is the Director of Sales at the American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Kentucky. Suzan is also a hand quilter, fabric designer, and aspiring quilt appraiser. She has over 20 years in the quilt industry and has traveled extensively in the US and Europe, doing trade and consumer quilt shows.

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Annual Labor Day Auction Benefits Hospice of Lancaster County

by Clinton Martin



The Hospice of Lancaster County's mission remains vital to our local community focusing on its comfort for adults and children who have but weeks or months rather than years to live. Hospice helps people with any serious illness, caring for patients at home, in a nursing home, hospital, or local inpatient hospice centers.



While patients are often able to pay for the professional care, no one is ever turned away due to financial reasons. Thus the need to maintain a critical source of funds remains constant. In Amish Country, that means "Benefit Auction," and my what a benefit auction the Hospice holds! For nearly 30 years, the Hospice of Lancaster

County has filled the Lampeter Fairgrounds for the Labor Day holiday weekend with one of our most exciting events.

The auction is held Saturday and Monday of the weekend, with Sunday a break in the action. Both days begin early with breakfast served by a dedicated group of local Amish families whose eggs-and-bacon way of giving back to the Hospice has become an eagerly awaited kick-off to the spirited bidding. Of course the Plain folk don't stop at just breakfast; they also man food tents throughout the entire auction. Many a bidder can be seen holding a number card in one hand, and a home-made baked goodie in the other.

The food aside, the highlight of the event is truly the amazing variety of items that appear on the auction block. On the traditional side think hand-crafted items, new and used household goods, tools and furniture. But the auction specializes as well in sought-after items like hand-sewn local

quilts, original artwork by local artists, and rare sports memorabilia.

For those who don't really need any more "stuff," there's a welcome alternative. Vie for the best in local experiences like gift certificates to local restaurants, travel packages, and even golf outings at local country clubs.

The bid-calling is what generates most of the proceeds, but the closing of the auction witnesses two grand finales. One lucky auction-goer gets to ride home on his (or maybe her?) very own Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and to really put a spin on the end of a great event, a brand new Ford Mustang is also raffled off. To win, a raffle ticket simply needs to be purchased with the proceeds going to Hospice.

Last year's auction was a record-setting affair, with a total of \$395,000 raised. Highlights by the numbers include more than 2,500 people in attendance and one of the most desirable quilts going for \$2,500. A trip to the Philadelphia Phillies, including round-trip limo transportation, went for \$2,300. Finally, a cake donated by a local chef was promptly bid on, won by the chef for \$1,600, and then immediately sliced and shared with onlookers!

Admission and parking is free, and the Lampeter Fairgrounds are easy to find. Using a GPS, it's 851 Village Road, Lampeter PA, but for traditional directions, follow Route 741 west from Strasburg. The fairgrounds are about 2.5 miles west off to the right. 🚗

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Deadline: Dec 31, 2012



Calling All Photographers!

2012 Amish Country News Photo Contest



All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included. To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2012 photo contest" in the subject line)

What's Coming Up In Our September Issue?

Amish Country exemplifies the legacy of family-owned businesses in the hospitality industry perhaps better than any other destination. Our September issue will feature profiles of the people behind these businesses, sharing how they got started, who is involved in what within their family, and what visitors can look forward to learning about their unique businesses. With this issue in hand, visitors could spend their entire vacation in Amish Country without ever stepping foot in an impersonal corporate chain.



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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

Please, No More Tourists!

by Brad Igou



Do you live in a "tourist area" that sees frequent visitors, and enjoy your home more in the off-season? A few years ago, to my dismay, I spied a sign out of sight behind the counter in an attraction that said "If it's tourist season, why can't we shoot them?" The message was clear, for some people and in some places, the word "tourist" is clearly a negative.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY offers this standard definition...

tour-ist. noun \ One who makes a tour, or performs a journey, especially for pleasure.

But there was another definition, one related to computer and internet jargon whose implication for the hospitality industry got me thinking...

A guest on the system, especially one who generally logs in over a network from a remote location for comm mode, electronic mail, games and other trivial purposes. A tourist is one step below a "luser." Hackers often spell this turist.

Okay, so what is a "luser?" The word was apparently coined at MIT in 1975...

When you first walked up to a terminal at MIT and typed Control-Z to get the computer's attention, it printed out some status information, including how many people were already using the computer; it might print "14 users," for example. Someone thought it would be a great joke to patch the system to print "14 losers" instead. There ensued a great controversy, as some users didn't particularly want to be called losers every time they used the computer. Someone tried the compromise "lusers," and it stuck.

As we "travel" the internet world "surfing," websites tally their "visitors" and "hits," along with how many "views" and "click thrus" they get.

I found the internet "tourist" definition of a guest logging on for "trivial purposes" disturbing. Perhaps I am a bit of a snob, but it's not how I think of myself, whether I am on-line or on vacation. "Hello, I am a tourist, and I am here for trivial purposes."

During my travels, I have noticed that some destinations have a "tourist bureau" and "tourist information," while others have a "visitors bureau" and "visitor information," such as our own Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau. Indeed, at our business we welcome "visitors," and avoid using the word "tourists" within our four walls.

vis-i-tor. noun \ One who comes or goes to see another, as in civility or friendship. A journey for business, pleasure, or education.

I am also inclined towards the word "guest." Whether we refer to friends staying in our home, or those invited to a special event, such as "wedding guests," we treat these special visitors warmly and do everything we can to assure them a wonderful time with us.

When in Japan at a traditional inn, on the morning our bus departed, staff members were lined up, standing and waving goodbye, literally until we were out of sight. It's not that we had become friends, but we were being thanked and treated with courtesy and respect as if we were.

I tried this a few times at the Amish Experience when, with a bus pulling away, I stood waving to our "visitor-guests." From what I could see through the tinted windows, the riders were surprised, and smiled waving back at me. I'm fairly certain that hadn't happened often on their trip.

Recently, I dropped off a Japanese journalist I was hosting here at her hotel. I looked in my rearview mirror and there she was waving goodbye until I disappeared from view...and she was MY guest!

This Japanese pleantry can easily be understood by us. When guests stay in our home, we greet them on arrival and become their warm and caring hosts. We don't stay in bed as they pack up and leave early in the morning. We walk out to the car with them and wave goodbye.

I have attended countless customer service seminars. I believe most of what speakers have had to say can be distilled down to a simple statement...treat visitors (not tourists) as we would guests in our home. You might call this my "Golden Rule" for the hospitality industry. Visitors or guests...by all means. Tourists...no, nay, never, no more!

I hope, and expect, that as you travel here in Amish Country, you are treated warmly as visitors and as our appreciated guests. Welcome to our home. You honor us with your time. Enjoy yourself. Thank-you for coming. And like any good friends, we hope to see you again soon! 

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